

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a scanner to read a document and provide image data

5 corresponding to a document image;

a printer to form an image corresponding to the image data
provided from the scanner;

an error detector to detect an operating error of the scanner
and the printer that are devices; and

10 a controller to stop an operation of the device that cause the
error and operate the device only that did not cause the error when
the error detector detects the operating error.

2. An image forming apparatus comprising:

15 a scanner to read a document and provide image data
corresponding to a document image;

a printer to forming an image corresponding to the image data
provided from the scanner;

20 an error detector to detect an operating error of the printer;
and

a controller to suspend the operation of the printer and by
operating the scanner only, completing the read of the document
when an operating error is detected by the error detector.

25 3. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2,
wherein the controller includes:

means for judging a degree of the error detected by the error detector; and

means for suspending the operation of the printer only according to the degree of the error.

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4. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the control means includes:

means for judging whether the error detected by the error detector is an error that can be solved; and

10 means for suspending the operation of the printer only when the error is an error that can be solved.

5. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

15 means for setting an image forming condition;

means for deciding whether a synchronous control for operating the scanner and the printer in synchronous with each other for every page of document images is used or the asynchronous control for operating the scanner and the printer in asynchronous with each other is used when forming an image based on the image forming conditions that are set by the setting means;

20 wherein the image forming apparatus is controlled based on the control mode decided by the deciding means.

25 6. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising:

means for switching the synchronous control mode to the asynchronous control mode when the synchronous control mode is decided by the deciding means and an error is generated during the image forming operation.

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7. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising:

a first memory to store image data;

10 compression/expansion means for compressing or expanding the image data;

a second memory to store the image data compressed by the compression/expansion means;

15 wherein in the case of the synchronous control, the document image data read by the scanner is stored in the first memory and then, provided to the printer and compressed by the compression/expansion means and stored in the second memory, in the case of the asynchronous control, the document image data read by the scanner is stored in the first memory, compressed by the compression/expansion means and stored in the second memory,
20 expanded by the compression/expansion circuit, stored in the first memory and then, provided to the printer.

8. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising:

25 means for switching the synchronous control mode to the asynchronous control mode when the synchronous control is decided

by the deciding means and an error is generated during the image forming operation.

9. An image forming method comprising:

5 reading a document by a scanner that is a device to provide image data corresponding to a document image;
forming an image corresponding to the image data provided from the scanner by a printer that is a device;
detecting operating errors of the scanner and the printer; and
10 suspending the operation of the device generating an error and operating the device not generating an error when the operating error is detected.

10. An image forming method comprising:

15 reading a document by a scanner to provide image data corresponding to a document image;
forming an image corresponding to the image data provided from the scanner by the printer;
detecting an operating error of the printer; and
20 suspending the operation of the printer when an operating error of the printer is detected, operating the scanner only and completing the document reading by the scanner.

11. The image forming method according to Claim 10, further

25 comprising:

judging the degree of the detected error;

wherein the operation of the printer only is suspended according to the degree of the error.

12. The image forming method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

judging whether the detected error is a relievable error;

wherein the operation of the printer only is stopped when the error is the relievable error.

13. The image forming method according to Claim 9, further comprising:

setting the image forming conditions;

deciding whether the synchronous control for operating the scanner and the printer synchronously for each page of document images is used or the asynchronous control for operating the scanner and the printer asynchronously is used based on the set image forming conditions when executing the image formation;

wherein the image forming apparatus is controlled based on the decided control mode.

14. The image forming method according to Claim 13, further comprising:

switching the synchronous control mode to the asynchronous control mode when the synchronous control is decided in the deciding step and an error is generated during the image forming operation.

15. The image forming method according to Claim 13, further comprising:

firstly storing image data;

5 compressing/expanding the image data;

secondly storing the image data compressed in the compressing/expanding step;

wherein in the case of the synchronous control, the document image data read by the scanner is stored in the firstly storing step and provided to the printer, and the document image data is 10 compressed in the compression/ expansion step and stored in the secondly storing step, and in the case of the asynchronous control, the document image data read by the scanner is stored in the first ly storing step and then, compressed in the compression/expansion 15 step and stored in the secondly storing step or expanded in the compression/expansion step and stored in the firstly storing step, and then provided to the printer.

16. The image forming method according to Claim 15, further 20 comprising:

switching the synchronous control mode to the asynchronous control mode when the synchronous control mode is decided in the deciding step and an error is generated during the image forming operation.

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